

Classis Safe Church Team Member Position Description

The Safe Church Ministry Vision:

In ALL Christian Reformed churches people are free to worship and grow in a safe place, free from any threat of abuse. Relationships are open and honest; the infinite value of ALL people is honored. Where abuse has occurred, the church ALWAYS responds with compassionate justice that fosters healing.

All Safe Church team members are expected to work in some capacity toward the above vision in their own church and as they serve the churches in their classis or region.

The way the vision looks practically is revealed in the 5 guiding goals listed below; these are things that Safe Church would like to see in every CRC.

5 Guiding Goals for Safe Church:

1. Every church has a **written Safe Church/abuse prevention policy** in place which includes adequate screening, regular review and training, and appropriate accountability for staff and volunteers working with children, youth, and vulnerable populations. Policies should be reviewed by church's insurance carrier and/or legal counsel to ensure compliance with what is required.
2. Every church is using a **curriculum in church school and youth programs** that teaches respect and promotes healthy relationships in an age-appropriate way. **Circle of Grace** is recommended by Safe Church.
3. **Allegations of abuse by a church leader are taken very seriously** and never minimized or hidden. Every church has protocols in place for responding to misconduct by a church leader, which are carefully followed. The Advisory Panel Process is recommended by Safe Church.
4. **Issues of abuse can be freely discussed.** This means that abuse is acknowledged and that the basic dynamics of abuse are understood.
5. **Leadership at all levels is committed to the importance of Safe Church Ministry** and supports Safe Church in a variety of ways.

Safe Church team members are expected to take on various responsibilities to help bring these 5 goals closer to reality. Team members will be selected for roles on the team according to their interests, abilities, or skills, and depending on what the needs of the team are. Team roles may include but are not limited to: Chairperson, Meeting Convener, Records Keeper/Secretary, Treasurer, Support Services Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Panel Coordinator, Church Outreach Coordinator, Denominational Office Liaison, Classis Liaison/Presenter, etc...

Qualifications for Team members:

1. Team members must be an adult in good standing of the church he/she attends and must be approved by the church council for the position.
2. Team members shall have a passion for keeping the church as a true sanctuary, free from abuse, for both children and adults.
3. Team members shall be willing to take advantage of training opportunities available in the region, or from the denominational Safe Church office.
4. Team members shall be willing to assist congregations in working toward the five guiding goals of Safe Church. This may include assisting with writing Safe Church policies and presenting Safe Church education to councils and congregations.
5. Team members shall be willing to meet on a regular basis (2-4 times a year) with their classis Safe Church team to develop strategy for work toward the vision.